

are on the front line in the war against poverty. They understand its causes and they will provide the moral and spiritual leadership so many of our people so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, we were sent to Washington to put people to work and get the Government's hand out of working people's pockets. We say if the American people give you a hand-up you will find a real job or we will cut off your benefits in 2 years.

Let me tell you where we will be if we do not put a brake on the runaway welfare train. Today Federal welfare spending stands at \$387 billion, by 2000 we will spend \$537 billion on welfare entitlements. The madness has to stop.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to save the lives of millions of children who would otherwise be trapped in the system which has ruined previous generations. We cannot be intimidated by the liberals in Congress and the media who offer no solutions, only scare tactics. They throw out words like cruel and mean but I ask you Mr. Speaker, what is more cruel, what is more mean, then to condemn a child to life on the liberal welfare dole. That is the cruelest punishment imaginable. We cannot allow another generation of American children to fall victim to the compassion of the American left. We must be strong, we must be bold, and we must act now. Our children deserve no less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. TUCKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TUCKER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SCHROEDER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM BILL IS FLAWED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I am going to pick up where the last speaker left off, perhaps in a little different refrain. I might add he just accused the Democratic Party of 30 years of not tending this problem. It actually did in 1988, when it worked with President Reagan to pass the welfare reform bill which is the basis under which this Federal Government has been operating since 1988.

So if you want to place some blame, talk to President Reagan about that. He, of course, is a well-known Socialist.

Now, I want to talk about the welfare reform bill. I want to talk about why I voted against it.

I voted against it because the GOP version, the Republican version, does not stress work adequately. I voted against it because it does not preserve but instead cuts the School Lunch Program. I voted against it because the money that saved the estimated \$68 billion does not go for deficit reduction.

Let me make that clear: It does not go to reduce the budget deficit, but it is going to go fund a tax cut that is going to go sailing through here in a couple of weeks that will provide 65 percent of its benefits for everyone over \$75,000 a year while providing less than 5 percent of the benefits for those under \$30,000 a year. That is not a good trade.

We all want welfare reform. That is why I introduced a bill earlier this year that has many of the elements that have been common to these welfare reform bills. My bill has a 2-year requirement in it and after 2 years a person must go off the welfare rolls.

Mine has a tough work requirement modeled after what we have done in past years in West Virginia. Mine required, for instance, that people seek education and that they do public sector work, if necessary. But there are a lot of other things, unfortunately, that were not included in the Republican version.

A lot of things, for instance, that the Republicans do not tell us, did not talk much about. How about the fact that the Congressional Budget Office, which now has a Republican appointee—not a Democrat appointee—but the Congressional Budget Office recently scored this bill and said that not one of the 50 States, not one—not West Virginia, not any one of the States—would be able successfully to move the required amounts of people from welfare to work.

What kind of statement is that, when the Republican-dominated Congressional Budget Office itself issues a bad report?

I think it important as well to look at what the States think of this, particularly, my State. We have heard a lot about how this is going to free up the States. Take a look, for instance, at what it does for the States.

Many of us raised concerns on the House floor about what would happen when the School Lunch Program was put into a block grant with the Women, Infants, and Children Program, which was put into a block with the other nutrition programs. We raised concerns about this. They said not to worry, the States will love it. And, of course, they said there would be a real increase. And, of course, it is not an increase in the block grant, because while you can give technically the School Lunch Program a 4.5-percent increase per year, what you are not telling the people is that at the same time you are permitting the Governors to shift 20 percent of that money elsewhere. You are not telling

them that the current law provides more assistance than the new law, and you are not telling them that all the Federal nutritional standards are being removed.

You are also not telling them that in order to do that, you have to savage other nutrition programs in the block grants, such as the important Women, Infants, and Children Program.

I think it is very important to note, Mr. Speaker, that I am holding a concurrent resolution, a concurrent resolution No. 37, from the West Virginia Legislature, signed by the speaker of the house Chuck Chambers and the president of the West Virginia State Senate, Earl Ray Tomblin.

In that concurrent resolution, one of the last acts passed by our State legislature, they urged the Congress not to vote for this welfare reform act put forward by the GOP for the reason that it decimated WIC. They point out that the Women, Infants, and Children Program serves 55,000 West Virginians, provides 28 million dollars' worth of assistance, but more than that, helps young woman bring healthy babies to term.

I think it is very significant that the legislature which would be charged with enacting this legislation went on record as opposing the legislation.

I think it is also important to note that the West Virginia Board of Education, our State board of education, which is in charge of implementing the school lunch program and the school nutrition programs which you would think under the philosophy of the GOP they would be most eager to accept the School Lunch Program, the school nutrition program in a block grant; they went on record in resolution on the 10th day of March 1995 opposing this legislation and urging that the school lunch and school nutrition programs not be block-granted, because they understand it would be even more of an administrative nightmare.

The also understand that the school lunch and nutrition programs would be pitted against each other.

So, I want a bill, Mr. Speaker, that stresses work. This did not stress work. I want a bill that preserves the School Lunch Program and the nutrition programs and does not cut them. I want a bill that reduces the deficit and does not give, does not give the savings for a large tax cut for the wealthiest individuals in this country. This bill does not do that either.

For that reason, I voted against its passage.

THE NEED FOR REFORMING OSHA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, recently the Subcommittee on Workforce Protection heard testimony from Assistant Secretary for Occupational

Safety and Health Joe Dear. Among the many things Mr. Dear told the subcommittee, he said this: "Every year, work-related accidents and illnesses cost an estimated 56,000 American lives * * * At the time I was not certain if Mr. Dear and his friends over at OSHA were afraid of real OSHA reform. But for them to be using scare tactic statistics like these in an effort to puff up a supposed need for OSHA, well they must be utterly terrified of OSHA reform. Using incomplete and speculative statistics makes for incomplete and poor policy decisions. As we look to make real reforms in the way OSHA does business, we need to insure that any legislative action is based on sound and scientific information. We must use peer review to determine the effectiveness of a regulation. But when you consider how loose OSHA is willing to play with the facts, it makes you wonder whether OSHA can possibly be reformed.

Mr. Speaker, the problem with Mr. Dear's statement is that he has stated with certainty about statistics where there is considerable uncertainty. There is great disagreement and dispute about the number of fatalities from workplace illnesses. But there is a consensus about fatalities resulting from workrelated accidents, although this was not always the case. Several years ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics initiated a new program called the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. This program obtains an actual count, rather than an estimate, of the number of workplace fatalities. That count for 1993, the latest year for which we have numbers is 6,271. The census is intended to pick up deaths caused by workplace exposures to toxic substances. Although the Bureau of Labor Statistics acknowledges that it probably does not produce a complete count of fatal illnesses. In fact, at this point in time, no one has a completely accurate count of workplace-related fatal illnesses. But the best numbers we do have are those produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. We pay the Bureau of Labor Statistics quite a bit of money to compile these statistics. I would think that the good Secretary of OSHA would use his own department's numbers rather than using the disputed, speculative numbers of others. If Mr. Dear is right, and I doubt that he is, if there are really 56,000 workplace fatalities instead of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported number of 6,271, if the Bureau of Labor Statistics are wrong by that much, if they are only counting 7 percent of all workplace fatalities, someone down there needs to be fired, if Joe Dear is right.

Mr. Speaker, two other points about the number of fatalities should be highlighted. First, the number and rate of workplace fatalities have been declining steadily since the 1930's. This is significant when one considers that OSHA did not come into existence until the 1970's. Consequently, it is a matter of

debate as to how effective OSHA has been in reducing workplace fatalities.

Second, most workplace fatalities are not caused by factors which one would normally consider workplace hazards. For example, according to Census on Workplace Fatalities, in 1993 there were 6,271 workplace fatalities. However, over 60 percent of these fatalities were due to transportation accidents, homicides, suicides, and drownings. As one of my colleagues once said "unless OSHA teaches employees how to drive, fly, swim, and cope better, it's not going to have any impact on these deaths."

I believe the American people are frustrated by burdensome regulations. Every day small business people are pulling their hair out and fretting about regulatory mandates they can't possibly comply with. I know that many of my liberal colleagues scoff at this assertion. But I suggest that if they got out of their cloistered existence for just a short time and experience what small business people all over this country have to put up with, they would change their tune soon enough.

OSHA is one agency that has turned a reasonable and important mission into a bureaucratic nightmare for the American economy. Common sense was long ago shown the door at OSHA. OSHA is one agency that needs to be restructured, reinvented, or just plain removed.

□ 1430

THE WELFARE REFORM PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak today on an issue that is extremely important to me. It is one that I think will affect every American. It is one that will undoubtedly create a great deal of injustice. It will create a great deal of anxiety. It will create a great deal of problems for many American families in the years to come. I speak about one element of the Republican Contract on America, the welfare reform program.

Mr. Speaker, some people have not had the opportunity to travel outside of their State or even outside of this country, but thanks to CNN and other national networks we are able to see how other people live in other countries. When we looked at the slums in India, the slums in Haiti, the slums in China, we said, my God, how can people live in these type conditions?

But if we wonder about how they eat and how they sleep, then we all ought to think about home. In America, the poorest families, the poorest of the poor can live in subsidized housing that is healthy, that is safe, that is clean.

As it stands now, through food stamps and other certain types of child

nutrition programs, lunch programs and breakfast programs we know that they can eat. Yes, we have the homeless, sometimes those who cannot find a place to stay, those that cannot find food to eat, but the majority of Americans go home to a place to stay that is heated, and they have food to eat.

That is because over the years we have been sensitive. We have understood that the American dream is not for everyone, that there are certain people born with certain inequalities that cannot be corrected by man: the blind, the disabled, and others with so many other special type of disabilities. We have made provisions for them.

And there are special circumstances where people for no reason of their own are without jobs: layoffs and other type downsizing problems.

There are some places in America on Indian reservations, in the blight belt of Alabama, Appalachia and other places in this country where there are no jobs, and for the next two or three decades there probably will not be any jobs. Many of those people migrate to our cities, creating additional problems because it is so expensive to live in the city. We have been sensitive to those needs and those situations.

But then there are situations created by nature, floods, hurricanes, mudslides, earthquakes, and other types of natural disasters, that cause problems in this country. If we do not make provisions for those Americans, then we ought to do for the least of those what we should do for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting that the cuts in the program that have been proposed today are un-American, and those who proposed them are disloyal Americans, and they are not sensitive to the needs of other Americans.

I think that in this country one of the greatest reasons why it is the greatest country in this world is because we have always looked out for those who were unfortunate, those who were unable to fend for themselves. And in special circumstances like floods and so forth, we look out for those who ordinarily would be able to look out for themselves.

We did them a disservice this day. And I know that this issue will be debated for years to come, but if in the Senate this becomes law, then we may want to revisit those slums in Haiti, in China, and in India. Because I submit to you because of the high cost of housing in this country, because of the low wages we pay, \$4.25 an hour, a wage that no one can subsist on anywhere in America, we will have those type of slums.

It would be detrimental not only to the health and the welfare of those people who live in those places but to every American everywhere.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask the Senate to make sure that this bill, this Robin Hood bill, this "create heaven" bill never becomes law.